Seminal Events in French Religious Wars

1516- Concordat of Bologna- French defeat Swiss (backed by Pope) at Milan

Swiss thereafter- non aggressive

Concordat enhances French Kings rights to select bishop, cardinals,

1525- Battle of Pavia

Habsburg defeat Valois- Francis I held, French placate Charles V by persecuting new “Lutheran” movement

1534- Protestants damage churches

Widespread Persecution

1540- Edict of Fountainebleu persecutions via Inquisition

Calvin and others go in exile (Geneva)

1551- New laws more persecution

1555 Peace of Augsburg in HRE- Nobles gained increased independence

1556- Henry II dies at marriage Philip II (spain) to Henry’s daughter

Rise of the Guise family

Rise of the Bourbon Family and other nobles (admiral Coligny)- Protestant sympathies

Catherine de Medici as regent

1559 Italian Wars end

1560- Aborted attempt by Protestants to Kidnap Francis II

Francis II dies anyway- nothing to do w/Protestants

By 1561 6% of France Protestant, 40% of Nobility!

1562 January Edict- Increased tolerance towards Protestants

Guise family reacts- kills lots of Protestants- Major Protestant leaders slow to react-> Catherine shifts to Guise alliance

1563 Duke of Guise assassinated

Fighting breaks out late 1560s, Neighboring Protestant areas get involved too!

1570 Coligny takes leadership of Protestants

More religious tolerations – Coligny becomes righthand man to Charles IX of France

1572 Catherine to marry daughter to Henry Bourbon (Protestant) but Catherine frets-> Coligny trying to get France involved in Netherlands squabbles

St. Bartholomews Day! (attempt assass Coligny fails-Catherine freaks out!)

Increased Religious War- by this time Protestant liturgy allowed fighting back!

1576- New Law – Religious Tolerance

Guise family w/Philip II support forms Catholic League

1577- Charles IX retracts tolerance

1580s Henry Bourbon clear heir to throne- Guise ties Spain under suspicion

Henry III (Charles IX died) 1588 attacks Guise, fails, later has Henry Guise assassinated – turns the tides

1589 Henry III Valois, forms alliance w/Henry Navarre (Bourbon), Henry III killed, Henry Bourbon-> Henry IV- new royal bloodline

Philip II w/Church support tries to take France- French don’t like intruder-> Catholic League and Philip repelled

1593 Henry Bourbon IV becomes Catholic

1596- Catholic League falls apart

1598 Edict of Nantes